

WASHINGTON, DC-Today, both the national League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and the Alliance for Retired Americans, gave Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) 100% ratings for his 2002 voting record in Congress. The scorecards demonstrate Blumenauer's leadership in Congress on protecting the environment and ensuring that retired Americans' voices are heard.

"I am so pleased to have received this remarkable honor from two respected national organizations working to make America stronger," said Rep. Blumenauer. "My voting record on seniors' issues and the environment reflects my commitment to making our nation's families and communities healthy, safe and economically secure."

On the LCV environmental scorecard, Blumenauer earned a 100% rating for 2002 and a 91% overall rating for the 107th Congress. The House LCV average was 47%, with House Republicans averaging 17%, House Democrats averaging 79%, and Oregon House members averaging 75%. Today's LCV 2002 scorecard tallies 8 environmental votes from the House of Representatives, including votes on Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage, environmental exemptions for the Defense Department and drilling off the coast of California. Included in the list of scored environmental votes is the amendment offered by Blumenauer on the FY2003 Department of the Interior Appropriations bill that would have limited water intensive farming practices on the Klamath national wildlife refuges.

"Congressman Blumenauer's League of Conservation Voters score proves that the people of Oregon can depend on him to consistently put their interest in a clean and healthy environment first," said Deb Callahan, LCV president. "When it comes to protecting our air, water, and natural heritage from corporate polluters, American families have no better friend than Congressman Blumenauer."

The Alliance for Retired Americans, a nationwide organization of more than 2.5 million union retirees, also recognized Blumenauer today for his strong voting record on issues of importance to retired workers. The Alliance's scorecard evaluates members of Congress on 10 votes of importance to older Americans. Blumenauer's 100% rating on their 2002 scorecard reflects his commitment to enacting a meaningful prescription drug benefit under Medicare, protecting Social Security and providing real pension reform.

The League of Conservation Voters 2002 National Environmental Scorecard is available at <http://www.lcv.org>. The Alliance for Retired Americans 2002 Voting Record is available at <http://www.retiredamericans.org/>.

